

Appl. No. 09/597,196
Amendment and/or Response
Reply to Office action of 20 November 2003

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REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claims 5-10, and 12-13 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 11 are canceled herein; claims 1-4 being canceled as drawn to restricted and non-elected sets of claims.

Claims 14-16 are newly added. No new matter is added.

Claims 5 and 7-13 are amended for non-statutory reasons: to correct one or more informalities, and/or to replace "legalize" terminology for more readily understandable terms. Claim 5 is amended to provide a consistency of terms. These claims are not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added. Claim 6 is amended to make it apparent that the access data is received at the appliance from a remote device; the intended scope of the original claim is not narrowed in scope.

The specification is amended to correct a terminology error, and to properly characterize the prior art. No new substantive matter is introduced.

The Office action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the applicant's admitted prior art (hereinafter, AAPA) and Lenz (USP 6,029,196). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of amended claim 5.

The applicant teaches a personalization of smart appliances based on profile information that is obtained from a network site that is accessed via a relay server. A remote device communicates an identifier that corresponds to the relay server. In a preferred embodiment, the identifier is the "URL" of the relay server. By providing an identifier of the relay server to the receiving appliance, the appliance merely issues a request to the provided identifier, and the corresponding relay server provides the necessary information for accessing a user profile (e.g. the URL of the profile server). Via this invention, any device that is capable of issuing requests to given addresses can support the use of these remote devices.

Conventionally, as in the AAPA, an infrastructure is required wherein the appliance is configured to access a predefined server, and that server is configured to provide a match between the information provided from the remote device and a set of profile information. In Lenz, all compatible appliances must know, a priori, the address of the network server, and this predefined network server must contain, or have access to, the profile information.

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In the subject invention, because the remote device provides an identifier that corresponds to a relay server, the individual appliances do not need to be pre-programmed with an identifier of the server, thereby substantially reducing the degree of coordination/agreement among appliance vendors to provide a working infrastructure.

In the applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA), a smart card is used to provide a unique identifier to a client device. The client device looks up information corresponding to the unique identifier, and transmits this information to a predefined server. In Lenz, a client processor determines the address of the server that provides the profile data from a predefined server location file.

Because neither the applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) nor Lenz, individually or collectively, teaches or suggests providing an identifier from a remote device that corresponds to a relay server that can be contacted to obtain an address of a profile server that provides a profile to an appliance for controlling the appliance, as specifically claimed in claim 5, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) and Lenz.

The Office action rejects claims 6-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) over the applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the amended specification, the above remarks, and the following remarks.

The applicant's admitted prior art includes USP 5,983,273 (hereinafter White). White teaches an appliance configuration system based on the use of a smart-card. A user provides a smart-card to the appliance; the appliance transmits the information provided by the smart-card to a predefined server, and receives profile information from the server.

Claim 6, upon which each of the other rejected claims depends, specifically recites receiving access data for accessing a network from a remote device.

In the applicant's admitted prior art, including White, the remote device provides an identifier, but this identifier cannot be used for access a network, and thus cannot be properly termed "access data" in the context of the applicant's claims.

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As taught by the applicant, the remote device provides, at a minimum, data that allows a network access device to access a component on the network (the relay server). The remote device may also provide supplemental information that facilitates further access to the network, such as a user-ID, password, and so on.

Because the applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA) does not teach providing access data that provides network access from a remote device to an appliance, and because the applicant's admitted prior art specifically teaches providing an identifier from a remote device, and maintaining information at the appliance or at a predefined network address for facilitating network access and its perceived benefits, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's reconsideration of the rejection of claims 6-13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) over the applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA).

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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